

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

**I. Status of the Claims**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 9-13, 15-17, 20-23, 45-48, 52-59, and 61-64 remain pending while claims 1-8, 14, 18-19, 24-44, 49-51, and 60 are canceled. Claims 65-68 are new. The new claims find support in original claims 20-23, and in the published application at paragraph [0049].

**II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

In response to the rejection of claims 1-9, 14, 17-23, and 42-64 as being anticipated by EP 0164200, applicants have canceled claims 1-8, 14, 18-19, 49-51, and 60. Still pending claims 9, 17, 20-23, 45-48, 52-59, and 61-64 have been amended to make them depend from a claim which has been stated to be allowable. See Part III. below.

**III. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 10-13, 15, and 16 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 10, 12, and 15 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11, 13, and 16 have been amended to make them depend from claims 10, 12, and 15, respectively. All other pending claims and the new claims depend from claims 10, 12, and 15. Since all claims are therefore allowable or depend from a claim which has been stated to be allowable, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. Applicants do not believe that a fee is required for the filing of this response, as it is being submitted within the three months shortened statutory period for reply. Should applicants be incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 19-1345

Respectfully submitted,

/paul fleischut/

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